

# Efforts to Update BLM Land Use Plans

Scott Florence  
Senior Planner  
WO-210  
(202-452-5151)

# The Current Planning Initiative

- Started in 2001 as 10 year effort to revise or amend BLM's 162 existing land use plans, plus prepare 27 new plans for new NLCS units
- From a historic low of \$6.6 million in FY2000, the BLM's planning budget has grown to \$48 million in FY 2004

# Planning Progress to Date

- Of the 21 original Time Sensitive Plans, 11 have been completed and several others are close to being completed
- Several other major non-TSP plans have also been completed, many others underway
- There are currently some 70 ongoing planning efforts Bureau-wide

# Planning Progress to Date (Energy Related Plans)

## Completed Plans:

- ❑ Farmington RMP (NM)
- ❑ Powder River Amendments (MT & WY)

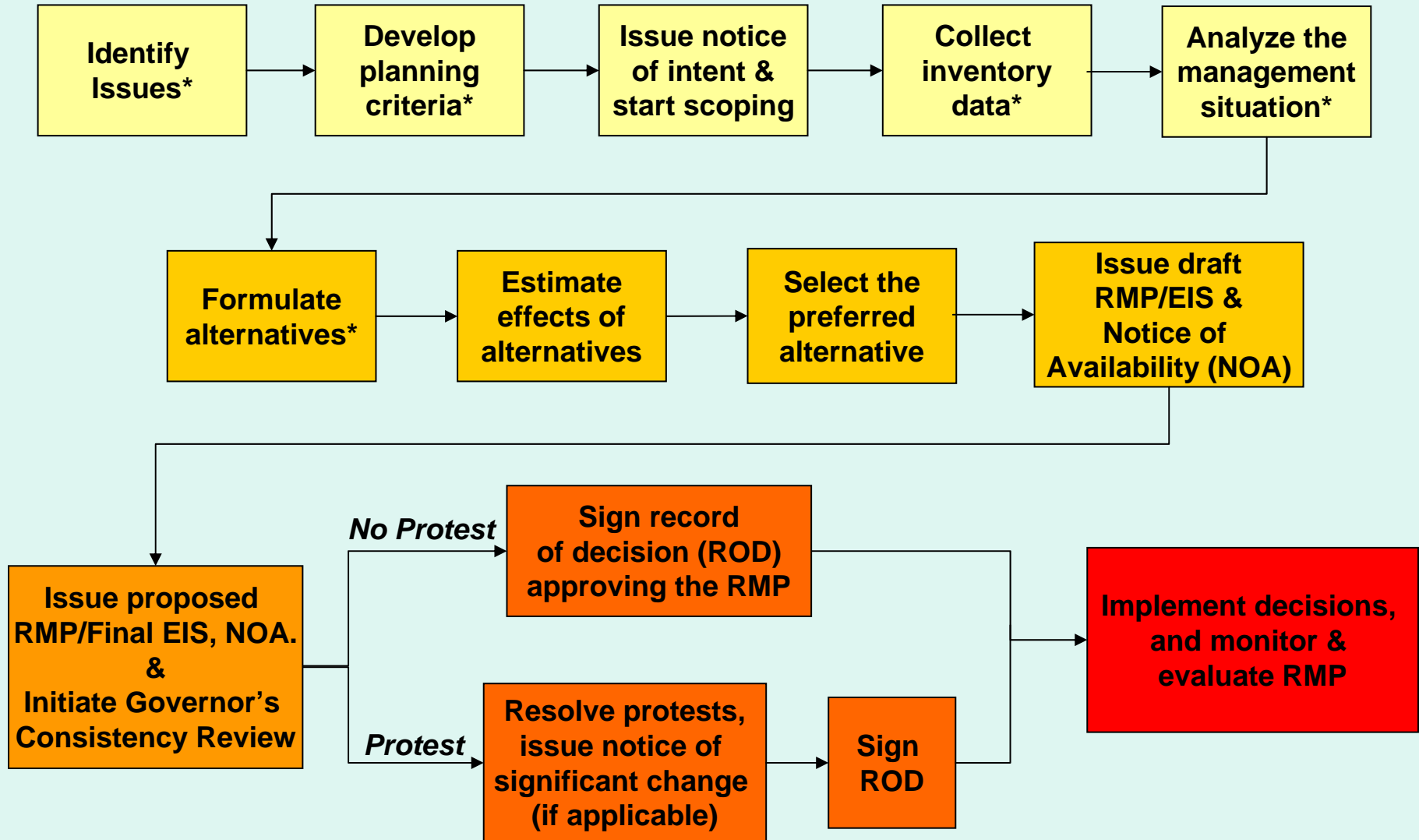
# Planning Progress to Date

## (Energy Related Plans)

### Plans in Progress:

- ❑ Price, Vernal, Moab and Monticello RMPs (UT)
- ❑ White Sands Amendment - Otero Mesa (NM)
- ❑ Miles City and Butte RMPs (MT)
- ❑ San Miguel/San Juan RMP and Roan Plateau Amendment (CO)
- ❑ Pinedale, Rawlins, Casper, Kemmerer RMPs and Jack Morrow Hills Amendment (WY)

# Planning Process



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\* These steps may be revisited throughout the planning process & may overlap other steps.

# Required Planning Decisions

- Areas Open to Leasing (subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form)
- Areas Open to Leasing (subject to minor constraints such as seasonal and controlled surface use restrictions)
- Areas Open to Leasing (subject to major constraints such as No Surface Occupancy)
- Areas Closed to Leasing

## Required Planning Decisions - Cont'd.

- Lease stipulations that apply to areas open to leasing
- Whether the leasing and development decisions also apply to geophysical exploration
- How identified constraints will be applied in areas currently under lease
- Long term resource condition objectives for areas currently under development (to guide reclamation activities)



## Required Planning Decisions – Cont'd

- All stipulations must have waiver, exception, or modification criteria documented in the plan
- When applying leasing restrictions, the least restrictive constraint to meet the resource protection objective should be used
- See H-1601-1 and H-1624-1 (Land Use Planning Handbook and Planning for Fluid Mineral Resources) for more details

# NEPA Considerations

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- Field Development EISs
  - Issue the Notice of Intent (NOI) as possible plan amendment
  - Make as site-specific as possible to minimize subsequent NEPA documentation
  - Use EA to authorize initial development, but concurrently begin full field development EA or EIS



# Your Role

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- ❑ You are the Resource Expert
- ❑ Participate on all Planning and NEPA interdisciplinary teams when Energy issues are being considered
- ❑ Bring your knowledge and experience to the table

**QUESTIONS??**



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